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Application No.: 10/526,248

Docket No.: JCLA12555

AMENDMENTS**In The Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 14 as follows:

--The disintegrator mechanism 5 is equipped with an impeller 5a having a plurality of, for example, two disintegrator blades 5a1, and the screen (sieve) 5b having a large number of pores with a predetermined diameter. The screen 5b has a conical configuration with a downwardly decreasing diameter and fitted in conformity with the lower end portion of the draft tube 6. The impeller 5a is detachably fixed onto an upper part of a rotary shaft 5c with a bolt ~~[[5b]]~~5d, with a predetermined gap being provided between the side edges of the disintegrator blades 5a1 and the inner surface of the screen 5b. The rotary shaft 5c extends through the center portion of the gas dispersion plate 3 to a position below the processing container 1 and is rotatably supported, through the intermediation of bearings 10, by a housing 9 fixed onto a stand 8 on which the processing container 1 rests. It is to be noted that the inside of the housing 9 is sealed by seal members 11. Further, sealing between the rotary shaft 5c and the gas dispersion plate 3 is effected by a labyrinth seal.—

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 1 as follows:

--As shown in FIG. 4, the rotor 15a includes a disk-shaped base portion 15a1 and multiple comb-teeth 15a2 extending upward integrally from the upper surface of the base portion 15a1. Formed at the center portion of the base portion 15a1 is a boss portion 15a11 that is key-

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coupled to the rotary shaft 5c, for example. Formed in the outer peripheral portion of the upper surface of the base portion 15a1 is a tapered surface 15a12 inclined toward the lower surface side. The comb-teeth 15a2 consist of outer teeth 15a21, intermediate teeth 15a22, and inner teeth 15a23 that are concentrically arranged. The outer teeth 15a21, the intermediate teeth 15a22, and the inner teeth 15a23 are arranged in a scattered formation at predetermined circumferential intervals from one another. As shown in FIG. 3, the rotor 15a is coupled to the rotary shaft 5c, with its lower surface abutted on the upper surface of the rotary rotor 4.--